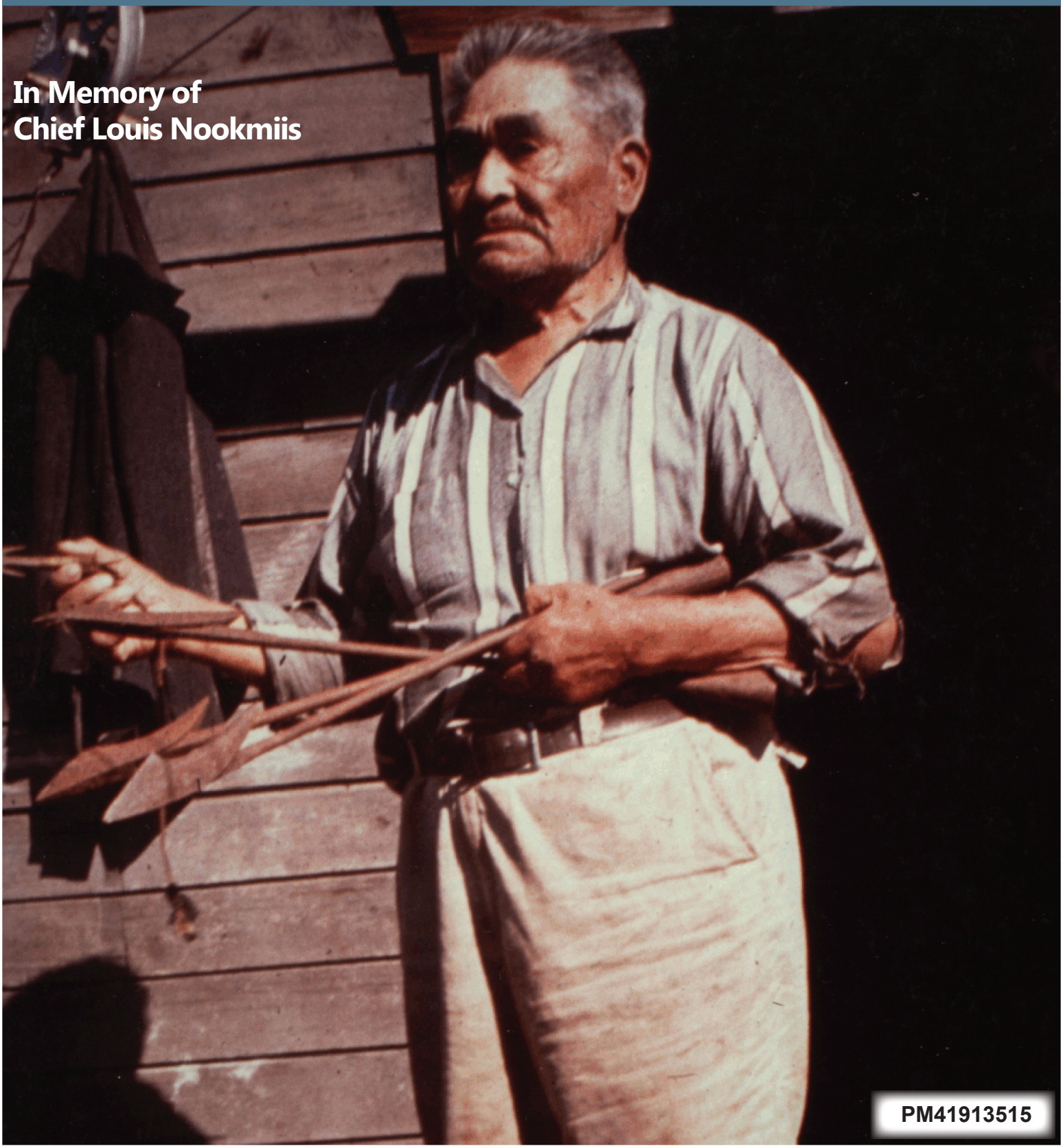
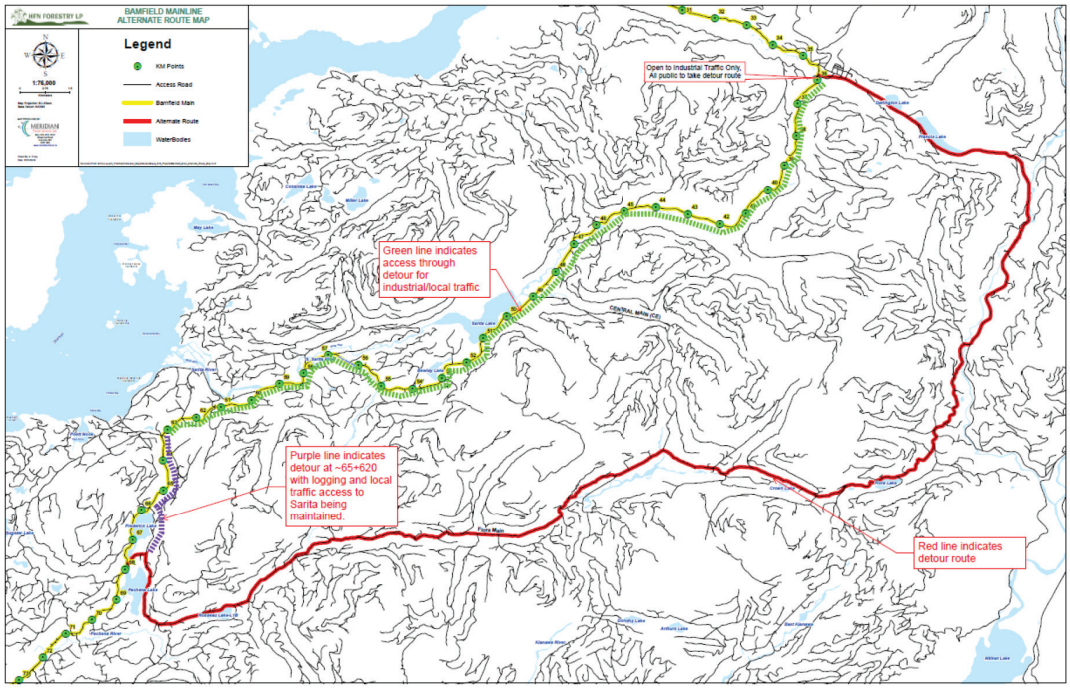
Uyaqḥmis

December 2022 Issue 69



PM41913515

Bamfield Road Construction Progress Moving Forward



Bamfield Main Detour

There will be no access to Bamfield Main Road from 36km to 58 km. All traffic, both industrial and public, will be required to use the detour. Drivers should slow down and be prepared for industrial traffic throughout the detour area.

Drivers can expect single-lane traffic and delays at approximately three locations between Port Alberni and Bamfield, each with a minimum of 15 minutes delay. Both traffic control persons at stops and/or automated flagging devices with pilot cars will be utilized.

All travellers are required to use the detour, and those who attempt to bypass the detour will be turned back.

Please slow down and expect additional delays due to the changing weather conditions. Winter driving conditions should be expected, and all public drivers should check weather conditions before travelling and be prepared. Please avoid driving during extreme weather conditions.

Speed should not exceed 60 km per hour, and drivers are required to slow down when construction equipment, flaggers, and crews are on the road. The RCMP will be monitoring for safe driving throughout the project and detour.

Crews will continue to work on ditching, culvert replacement, and beam barriers.



Road crew hard at work (photo by Danielle Tramer)

For questions on the Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project, please contact Amanda-Lee Cunningham, Communications Manager at amanda.c@huuayaht.org or 250-720-7776.

huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Huu-ay-aht envisons a strong, self-determining, self-reliant and sustainable Nation. ʔiisaak, Hišuk ma c̓awak, and ʔuuʔałuk guide us as we work together to foster a safe, healthy, and sustainable Nation, where our culture, language, spirituality, and economy flourish.

Huu-ay-aht Uyaqḥmis is printed up to six times a year to foster community engagement among a population of more than 800 citizens. Uyaqḥmis promotes the recovery and sharing of the Huu-ay-aht dialect of the Nuu-chah-nulth language, as well as knowledge of Huu-ay-aht culture.

Please send all comments and questions to the Huu-ay-aht Communications Department.

communications@huuayaht.org
Mailing Address:
Huu-ay-aht First Nations
4644 Adelaide Street,
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 6N4

www.huuayaht.org
for the latest news and events, job postings, and a digital archive of Uyaqḥmis

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Oomiisqu to Bring Safety to Mothers and Children

On November 7, 2022 Huu-ay-aht First Nations and BC Government Officials gathered to celebrate the announcement of the upcoming Oomiiqsu Mother Centre that is to be built in Port Alberni. Executive Councillor, Edward R. Johnson was the master of ceremony for this event. He started off the day by stating that this vision came about because of the voices of the Huu-ay-aht Citizens and how Oomiiqsu is about bringing Huu-ay-aht children home.



Tseshaht Councillor Ed Ross, Minister Josie Osborne, Dr. Bernd Muehlenberg, Huu-ay-aht Councillor Edward R. Johnson, Hupacasath Chief Councillor Brandy Lauder, Minister Murray Rankin, MP Gord Johns, Development Manager BC Housing Tara Schmidt (photo by Danielle Tramer)

As part of Huu-ay-aht Social Services Project formed in 2017, 30 recommendations were created in the report "Safe, Healthy and Connected: Bringing Huu-ay-aht Children Home." Oomiiqsu is a response to recommendation 26.

Oomiiqsu, meaning mother, is an Indigenous-led model of care developed by Huu-ay-aht in consultation with its members. The two-storey transition housing, child care and support centre will be managed and operated by the Huu-ay-aht government's Child and Family Wellness Department. The centre will provide a safe and culturally appropriate home for as many as 48 mothers and children leaving violence or abuse, facing mental-health and addictions challenges, poverty or other trauma.

At the announcement event, Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation explained how Oomiiqsu is personal to him in that he fundraised for the Aboriginal Mother Centre in Vancouver when he lived there. He talked about how it was Marge White who brought that into being. “It was a difficult project to bring about, as it was expensive at the time and it was a model. It was like a square peg in a round hole getting through the bureaucracy, yet, here we are; it’s working and thriving.”

“Oomiiqsu is going to make such a difference in this community when it gets underway,” said Minister Murray Rankin. “It will be a culturally appropriate and safe living space for vulnerable Indigenous women and their children on the west coast of Vancouver Island.”

MP Gord Johns got up and spoke about what a huge honour and privilege it was to be invited to witness this announcement. Gord got very emotional when talking about the partnerships that have been formed over this project.

“I have been to hundreds of announcements during my run as MP and I haven’t been to one that has been more important than this,” Gord Johns said through tears. “I feel this project is going to save lives.”

Huu-ay-aht will operate the building, providing support services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to Indigenous mothers experiencing violence. Wraparound supports provided by the Province will give families the best chance of staying together and will help address systemic factors leading to the disproportionate number of Indigenous children in care.

“What we are also celebrating today is living proof of Huu-ay-aht First Nations inherent rights and deep sense of identity and of culture and of laws,“ said Josie Osborne, Minister of Lands, Water, and Resource Stewardship and MLA for Mid-Island Pacific Rim. “With so many people here, I had a real reflection of Hišuk ma c̓awak, everything is one, we are all one. We are all working together to achieve common goals,” said Josie. “One of those goals is to turn a corner from a very dark history of separating children from their families and culture to one that is more generous, one that is more humane in a culturally aligned way of raising and keeping children and families together. That way children are growing up safe and healthy and connected to their home, connected to culture and values that are guided by their elders and by their leaders.”

Huu-ay-aht presented gifts to their guests and then Tseshaht Councillor, Ed Ross, sang and drummed a dinner song before everyone got up to enjoy the lovely luncheon prepared by Sarita Feasts Catering.

Statement from Kim Baird, Advisor on Social Services Project Panel:

“First Nations have the solutions for overcoming the multi-generational impacts of colonization. Oomiisqu Mother Centre is an example of innovation based on cultural values with a government partnership and is a true example of reconciliation. Everyone wins when we work together.”

To view the social services report and evaluation, please visit:
huuayaht.org

One of Huu-ay-aht's Great Historians

Chief Louie was the descendant of a high-ranking Huu-ay-aht family on his father's side. His paternal great-grandfather carried the high-ranked name ƛiišin, and was the head chief of the Huu-ay-aht tribe. His paternal grandfather was named Chief Adzik.



Chief Adzik is likely the individual in the center of this 1874 picture.

Louie Nookmiis was born on March 15, 1881 on a small island near Dodger Cove. He acted as Huu-ay-aht Chief from about 1904 until 1950 filling in for his deceased brother's son until he became of age.

Chief Louie managed tribal affairs according to the traditional system. He would discuss issues with other Huu-ay-aht chiefs before decisions were made. In a resolution sent to the Indian Agent in 1908 on behalf of the Huu-ay-aht, "Chief Louie Nookmiis" is listed as the Chief of the "Ohiaht." The Huu-ay-aht also sent a letter on November 30, 1911 to the Indian Agent, protesting having "Ohiaht" funds being used for relief. These letters are marked with Chief Louie's "X" as well as those of other Huu-ay-aht chiefs, reflecting the traditional approach.

One of Chief Louie's narratives describes his involvement with seal hunting in the 1890s and early years of the 20th century. Within a few decades, commercial hunting destroyed the fur seal herds. The commercial hunt was stopped by international treaty in 1911.

The Canadian Government set up a royal commission to investigate claims related to seal hunting. Arthur Patton was the lawyer who represented individual native seal hunters. Chief Louie presented claims for himself, for his father "Nookmiis," and for his brothers Peter and August. In the end, native fur seal hunters received few and small awards from the compensation provided; most of the money went to the lawyers and the sealing companies.

In 1914, Chief Louie gave testimony in Bamfield on behalf of the "Ohiaht" to the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia. He brought forward a number of important issues for attention. He stated that the boundary markers for Ohiaht Indian Reserves were being moved. He named two places where native houses stood and that should have established as Indian Reserves when they were created in1882. One site, the location where the Commission was meeting, was also the site where Chief Louie and John Moses, another Huu-ay-aht, had houses. Chief Louie's great-grandfather had also lived there. Chief Louie also pointed out that commercial seine fishermen were damaging the Sarita River salmon runs by catching all the fish before they entered the river.

In his later years, Chief Louie continued to provide valued advice to other Huu-ay-aht Chiefs and elders. He also continued to provide teachings from Huu-ay-aht history about chieftainships and about our historic village at Kiixin.

In 1963, Chief Louie took Don Abbott, an archaeologist from the British Columbia Provincial Museum, to show him the historic remains at the Huu-ay-aht village at Kiixin.



Chief Louie taking Don Abbot to Kiixin.

From the Huu-ay-aht perspective, these narratives are extremely important. They provide us with unforgettable insights into our history. They tell us who we are, where we came from, the price our ancestors paid to hold onto our territory, and details of historic and heroic events.

The Four Great Spirits

In the book, Voices of the Elders, Chief Louie Nookmiis tells the story of the Four Great Spirits. "Four Great Spirits keep our world," he says. "They give shape to all we see and all we are. They are the beginning and the always. They define what we see and together they create the Huu-ay-aht World. These Great Spirits are Land, Above, Horizon, and Undersea."

"The Great Spirit of the Land rules over all the oceans and rivers and mountains, lakes, forests and beaches. The tiniest drops of clear dew on the grasses, the new soft green needles on the fir trees, the rounded pebbles on the beach, are all small parts of the Great Spirit."

"The stars in the night sky, the moon, the sun and the warm light in the summer all come from the Great Spirit Above.

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History, Knowledge, Lessons Passed On

Continued from page 4

As does the wind and the rains, soft in summer but cold and lashing in winter. Rain that fills up the Land makes our rivers strong and the oceans plentiful. Above controls clouds and storms and the healing sunshine."

Horizon is the doorway for travellers, ever-changing as we move on the Land. Horizon tells us about what is coming. Look out upon the ocean and see where the world ends. Horizon is the Great Spirit who controls the boundaries. When we look out over the ocean – as far as possible – we see the beginning of Horizon; when the mountains touch the Sky and where the Land meets the Sky, when the eye can see no farther, this is Horizon."

"The Great Spirit Undersea directs the oceans and the tides, and its waters provide food for all creatures of the Land and the Sky. Undersea is powerful – as powerful as the waves that dash the shores and smooth each pebble and rock on the beach. Undersea is mysterious, for it houses life that can only survive in water and in darkness, deep below."

Chief Louie Nookmiis died in a hospital in Nanaimo in October of 1964. He is buried in the Huu-ay-aht cemetery at numuqamyis village, but his stories and his knowledge live on within our recordings, our books, and within our Huu-ay-aht people.



Chief Louie in his later years.

Some Strategies to Help with the Winter Blues

Many people get depressed in winter, or suffer from "the winter blues". The medical name for this winter depression is seasonal affective disorder (SAD). As our days are getting shorter, a lot of people find themselves becoming depressed and withdrawn. A few ways to try to beat this feeling are:

Let some light in – go outside during the day if you can, open your curtains, if you're indoors, try to sit near a window. Some find daylight lamps helpful as well.

Get some exercise: even if it's the last thing you feel like doing, getting some exercise is a great tool to help manage your mental health. Start small and try a walk at lunch time and increase it from there.

Keep a normal sleep schedule: over sleeping can actually worsen the symptoms of the winter blues.

Give yourself a pat on the back: be kind to yourself. You're stronger than you think. Have regular check-ins with yourself and give yourself the self care you need.

Here are some supports:

- Teechuktl Mental Health 250-724-3939
- Quu'asa Wellness 250-724-5757
- Huu-ay-aht Child and Family Wellness Department 250-723-0100

24-Hour Support:

- First Nations & Inuit Hope or Wellness Help Line 1-855-242--3310
- Vancouver Island Crisis Line Toll-free in BC 1-888-494-3888
- 1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433) Call if you are considering suicide, or are concerned about someone who may be at risk of suicide.



- Mental Health Support 310-6789
- Indian Residential School Survivor and Family 1-800-721-0066

Kuu-Us Crisis Line

- Adults/Elders: 250-723-4050
- Child/Youth: 250-723-2040
- Toll Free: 1-800-588-8717
- Metis Line: 1-833-638-4722

Huu-ay-aht Family Develop Thriving Lifestyle

Sarita Dennis won this year's Youth of the Year Award at the 2022 Annual People's Assembly. She really wanted to share this honour with her sister, Isla, as she felt she was deserving too, so we decided to share the Dennis family story as they are all successful in their own way.

Sarita Hašah - Kukswiisaksap is 16 years old. She is an accomplished musician playing piano, guitar, ukulele, hand drums including the cajon, dejembe, congas, bongos, rattles, shakers, many other rhythm instruments and singing. She spends hours each day practicing her instruments. Sarita has volunteered her time to provide community music lessons at music festivals and free concerts. She runs a non-profit pop-up Christian bookstore she independently fundraised for. Sarita volunteers her time playing piano and singing for two local churches. Sarita is homeschooled with her two siblings, Isla (14) and Cedar (9), by her mom DeeAnna. She took two university courses in the 2021/2022 school year and received "A's" in both courses. She is currently enrolled at Thompson River University to take another university course in the winter quarter. Sarita is quick to volunteer her time, especially when working with children or visiting elders.



Sarita Dennis (photo submitted by the Dennis Family)


The Dennis Family (from L to R) Brad, Cedar, DeeAnna, Isla, Sarita (photo submitted by the Dennis Family)

Brad - Qua uun nahs aht (from the place of the chiefs) received his Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree and Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from Walla Walla University in 2001 and 2003, respectively. He was selected as NASW Outstanding Student of the Year in 2003 for his volunteer work in the Confederated Tribes of Walla Walla, Umatilla and Cayuse, as well as in the Yakama Nation. Following licensure supervision under Terry Cross (LCSW) and Karen St. Claire (LCSW), both of whom are Indigenous Social Workers, he received his License of Clinical Social Work (LCSW) certification from Oregon State in 2015 and is currently registered as a Registered Clinical Social Worker (RCSW) in British Columbia.

DeeAnna - Cha chim ah oolk (she who makes things right) received her Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree and Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from Walla Walla University in 1998 and 1999, respectively. She has been working with children and families for over 20 years in various capacities, both in ministry and professionally. Her professional practice includes international child welfare, child and family mental health therapy, addiction recovery treatment, and mentoring program development and management, which included recruitment, screening, training, and retaining over 100 volunteer mentors and team leaders. Her most recent work includes organizational systems change management when she served as the Director of Diversity & Inclusion at the largest child and family mental health organization in the State of Oregon, United States. She developed a training series, Dimensions, designed to engage people in diverse, effective relationships with a deeper understanding of each other. It was instituted organization-wide and solicited by other organizations in the community. She has served as adjunct instructional faculty with the Graduate School of Social Work at Portland State University for six years.

Brad and DeeAnna have invested over 20 years in developing a thriving family life by interweaving their Christian faith in Creator God with Huu-ay-aht teachings. This process has involved decolonizing their Christianity, learning from their Huu-ay-aht ancestors, and using the tools they have developed in their professional practice as mental health professionals with children and families.

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Hard Working, Successful Huu-ay-aht Family

Continued from page 6

They work together putting on workshops designed to meet the needs of people with various learning styles. They use stories, interactive exercises, visuals, and scientific research.



Isla Dennis (photo submitted by the Dennis Family)

Isla T'ašii - Cha ?ak is 14 years old and known for her humour, music, drama, poetry, and drive for excellence in her educational pursuits. Isla is an accomplished ukulele, guitar, piano player, and an exceptional singer. Isla regularly volunteers her time in community outreach and in supporting youth through inclusive play. Youth of all ages are drawn to Isla and are quick to make friends with her. Isla shares her musical talents through volunteering at local churches and youth events. Isla is home-schooled and has received "A's" for her grades. Isla especially likes math and is currently working on addition and subtraction of algebraic fractions. Isla regularly volunteers her time filming and producing videos with her sister, Sarita, and her mom. Isla is known for her exceptional memory and has memorized extended bible passages. It takes over 30 minutes for Isla to recite all the bible passages she has memorized. Isla is comfortable doing public speaking and is adept at researching, organizing, and delivering her speeches in an informative, engaging, and persuasive manner. Isla is known for running and can complete a mile in 6 minutes and 35 seconds. Isla helped her family achieve their wellness goals by researching healthy living practices through whole and plant-based foods. Isla produces exceptional crafts, including crochet, embroidery, and cross stitch. She has won several 1st place prizes for her crafting.



Isla's embroidered pillows (photo submitted by the Dennis Family)

Cedar Gabriel - Humiis is the life of the party in the family. He LOVES animals so much that he's been a self-determined vegan his entire life. He's even rescued a few snails with cracked shells in his lifetime. He thrives playing sports, especially soccer, hockey, handball, and is learning a little lacrosse. He's an avid chess player like his dad and enjoys challenging adults. He excels in math and science. He takes any opportunity to take machines apart and figure out how they work. He plays the ukulele and piano.



Cedar Dennis (photo submitted by the Dennis Family)

Winter is Coming! Here are some suggestions to help you prepare



Be prepared for heavy rain, power outages, high winds, snow, and rough road conditions. Make sure to top up your generators, keep an emergency kit in your car, check weather reports and road reports before traveling. Keep emergency items in your home like flashlights, candles, battery-operated radio, food, water, blankets. Stay safe indoors and make sure you have working fire alarms, don't leave candles burning unattended, if a pot catches fire while cooking, put a lid on it. Stay safe and have a wonderful holiday season!

Changes to Child Welfare Laws to Uphold Indigenous Jurisdiction

Story from the Government Website. Media Contact: Lindsay Byers, Press Secretary

British Columbia is changing provincial legislation to remove barriers for Indigenous Peoples exercising jurisdiction over child and family services, becoming the first province in Canada to expressly recognize this inherent right within provincial legislation.

"This is a pivotal shift toward real and meaningful change that respects Indigenous rights and improves services and supports for Indigenous children, youth and families," said Premier John Horgan. "B.C. was the first province to bring the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into provincial law and it's fulfilling to see how that bold action continues to create reforms that support reconciliation and make life better for Indigenous communities."

The amendments, the largest in more than 25 years, will respect the inherent rights of Indigenous communities to provide their own child and family services, and to keep Indigenous children safely connected to their cultures and their communities.

"The colonial era of the Province controlling child welfare must come to an end — and this legislation cannot be passed soon enough," said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of BC Indian Chiefs. "This legislation holds the promise of finally affirming the inherent rights of First Nations to ensure our children are with their families, communities and people. It brings me incredible joy to think about this change in my lifetime, and for my grandchildren and great grandchildren. As Indigenous Peoples, we have the right to exercise self-determination over our children and we are glad this is finally being recognized through law."

The changes will also help to further address and reduce the disproportionate number of Indigenous children in provincial care.

"We know that the current child-welfare system is a continuation of harmful colonial practices, and the solution is to re-assert jurisdiction over their children, youth and families in accordance with their customs, traditions and Indigenous laws," said Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development. "These amendments are a significant step in the creation of an approach that properly respects the inherent rights and legal orders of Indigenous Peoples and reshapes the provincial laws to focus on the best interests of Indigenous children."

The modernized legislation will support Indigenous Peoples to re-establish, develop and exercise child-welfare laws for their community members and to recreate their own models for child and family service delivery, including family support, child protection and adoption services. Upholding jurisdiction will have an unparalleled positive impact on Indigenous children, youth and families, respecting and facilitating connections to communities, and resulting in healthier lifelong outcomes.

The amendments were developed in consultation and co-operation with Indigenous rightsholders, Modern Treaty Nations, Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs), Métis Nation BC and Indigenous partners. This is an important step in meeting government's commitments under the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and achieving the goals in the Declaration Act Action Plan, Theme 1: Self Determination and Inherent Right of Self Government.

Quick Facts:

- The proposed amendments will:
  - recognize that the Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA) must be administered and interpreted in accordance with Indigenous communities' inherent right of self-government with respect to child and family services;
  - enable IGBs to assume jurisdiction over child-welfare services provided to an Indigenous child in accordance with Indigenous laws;
  - strengthen collaboration and enable consent-based decision making with Indigenous communities on adoption placements for Indigenous children;
  - ensure that both Treaty First Nations and non-Treaty First Nations have opportunities to exercise jurisdiction in these areas;
  - enable information sharing between the Province and IGBs to help IGBs plan for and exercise jurisdiction;
  - establish a new Indigenous child-welfare director position in the Ministry of Children and Family Development to provide guidance and advice to CFCSA directors and their delegates in navigating a multi-jurisdictional child and family services model; and
  - enable joint and consent-based agreements to be made in accordance with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act for relevant powers under the Adoption Act and the CFCSA

Website to story:

https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022PREM0061-001594

Citizen Survey Needed For a Sustainable Ḥahuuḥi

Huu-ay-aht people have managed and protected the lands since time immemorial. The impacts of colonization have led to outside influences taking over that role. Huu-ay-aht has made considerable steps to regain the right and privilege of management of the lands through treaty, acquiring crown tenures, and now partnerships with major tenure holders (C̓awak ʔqin Forestry).

The Hišuk ma c̓awak Integrated Resource Management Plan (HIRMP) is a Huu-ay-aht led initiative in partnership with C̓awak ʔqin Forestry and Mosaic Forestry Operations to create a new system of land and resource management that takes a look at the entire ḥahuuḥi (traditional territory) instead of the western approach of addressing land management by tenure.

Huu-ay-aht is most concerned with managing the lands in a sustainable way for the next 7 generations and in accordance with our sacred principles of ʔiisaak (respect), ʔuuʔaḥuk (taking care of) and Hišuk ma c̓awak (everything is one). With this in mind Huu-ay-aht is looking for citizen feedback – this survey provides information about the current state of affairs and what work is being done related to the various values, and to solicit citizen input to identify priorities & focus areas for the HIRMP.

The questions contained in this survey have been designed to inform the Huu-ay-aht First Nations' Government about citizens' priorities and concerns around the management of the lands. Community feedback will be used to adjust how various areas are being managed moving forward.

The videos and survey have been designed so you can watch and answer the questions for one, a few or all of the topics. Feel free to review and provide feedback at once or over a few sittings. The survey will run for two months and citizens should expect an update of resource management by Spring 2023.

**** All of your answers are strictly confidential. Your name and email are for verification purposes only and will not be used or shared for external purposes.****

You can find the survey online at: huuayaht.org/HIRMPsurvey



Huu-ay-aht hahuuḥi map with traditional names

Huu-ay-aht Citizens Attend 2022 Annual People's Assembly

Huu-ay-aht First Nations hosted its Annual People's Assembly on Saturday, November 19 at the Barclay Hotel in Port Alberni.

Citizens travelled from as far as the United States to be together and engage in important government discussions.



A very full room of citizens gathering to listen to the presentation (photo by Danielle Tramer)

To start off the Annual People's Assembly, Huu-ay-aht citizen and speaker, Angela Wesley, along with the citizens, recited the Huu-ay-aht Oath. After them, Huu-ay-aht Government Officials recited the oath as well.

Executive Council then reviewed last year's citizen motions.

Hinatinyis put forward the motion last year to Executive Council to have a trauma-informed specialist along with cultural support in place for those that are impacted by the direct and intergenerational trauma of residential schools. She also suggested a Critical Response Policy be developed to lay out the delegation of roles and responsibilities of a Critical Response Team, as well as a Communication and Support Plan. It was requested that Executive Council reconsider this motion. It started a conversation where citizens shared their stories and why having this motion passed would be very beneficial for them and how it can help them heal from the ripple effects of intergenerational traumas.

As a result, Executive Council committed to revisiting the motion and taking the next steps to help Huu-ay-aht citizens.

Executive Council went over the Annual Report highlighting their portfolios and all their achievements. A draft of the Annual Report can be found at https://huuayaht.org/2022-peoples-assembly/



One of the very young Huu-ay-aht Citizens (photo by Danielle Tramer)

Before heading into lunch, hinatinyis shared a song that she wrote with language learners in 2020. The Nuu-chah-nulth song is for language learners and explains that we will not fear, drift away, and we will stand tall, saving our language.



Brad Johnson presenting Larry Johnson as Elder of the Year (photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)



Edward R. Johnson presenting Stella Peters as Citizen of the Year (photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

Following lunch, Huu-ay-aht Chief Financial Officer, Paul Rokeby-Thomas presented an overview of the draft audited financial statements.



John Jack presenting Myrna Mack who was accepting on behalf of Sarita Dennis for Youth of the Year (photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

There was a presentation made by Elected Chief Councillor, John Jack on the vision for Anacla/Bamfield. The vision is to create a First Nations (Indigenous) tourism destination that combines cultural experiences, hiking, nature trails, and recreational activities along the beautiful Pacific West Coast. Tourism will be the driver of sustainable economic activity while ensuring cultural, social, economic, and environmental considerations for the region.

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First In-Person People's Assembly Since Pandemic

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Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses presented their highlights from 2021 – 2022 and their annual report was provided to all citizens in attendance.

Huu-ay-aht was able to address all Huu-ay-aht citizens motions this year.

Each motion brought forward created many great and important discussions.

This year's winners are as follows: Larry Johnson – Elder of the Year, Stella Peters – Citizen of the Year, Sarita Dennis – Youth of the Year. Santa also made a special visit and gave the children presents. Even some of the adults got to sit on Santa's knee and tell him what they would like for Christmas this year!

We are sure most citizens can agree with us, that it was a wonderful people's Assembly for citizens to come together once again, following a global pandemic. The People's Assembly is a time to discuss business and share your voices to better Huu-ay-aht in the present and for future generations, but it is also a time to come together as one, as Huu-ay-aht strong.

Please visit our website for the full story: https://huuayaht.org/2022PeoplesAssembly



Santa Claus with some very happy children (photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

Huu-ay-aht Government Office Holiday Hours

The Huu-ay-aht Government Offices will be closed this holiday season from **December 17, 2022** and will reopen **January 3, 2023**. Below are some emergency after-hours phone numbers you can call if needed. Have a safe holiday season.



A Holiday Message From Nananiiqsu

We want to remind everyone to be cautious of your health over the winter season. Be cautious of the different COVID variants, the flu viruses, and respiratory illnesses going around. Please take care of yourself, your family, your community. Stay healthy, be kind. Vaccines are a good defense to help your body fight against these illnesses.

We want to wish everyone the best in the New Year. Every day is a new hope, every year is a new beginning. Take this holiday season to reflect, to be grateful. It is a time to be together, to get along, share stories, culture, sing, dance, celebrate each other, and make some long-lasting memories.

HFN Group of Businesses

A Reflection on Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses Past Year

Looking back on 2022, the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses (“HGB”) has reasons to celebrate.

HGB operations continue to be strong because of the team we have built. Together we offer operations that are safe, perform well, offer opportunities for citizens, and live up to Huu-ay-aht’s Sacred Principles – ʔiisaak (Greater Respect), ʔuuʔałuk (Taking Care Of…), and Hišuk ma c̓awak (Everything is One).

The pandemic has created many challenges in the business world over the last few years. As we begin to emerge from the pandemic, we are discovering that the steps we took to keep our businesses strong during these years have given us the foundation needed to bring ourselves out, stronger than ever.



Blenheim Gravel Pit (Photo by Munro Thompson)

Our first full season at Pachena Bay Campground since the pandemic was a huge success. Our new online booking system made it easy for visitors to book sites, and we saw an influx of people coming to our newly expanded campground this summer.



Photo from the first Dark Sky event held at Pachena Bay (photo provided by HGB)

All of our businesses continue to offer training and employment opportunities for Huu-ay-aht citizens and their families. By continuing to employ Huu-ay-aht citizens and investing in citizen development, HGB has a direct impact on the future of the Nation and is meeting their mandate.

With the road improvements underway, it is essential that we continue to work with Huu-ay-aht and the business community of Bamfield to be ready for the anticipated growth. A high-quality road to Anacla and Bamfield will bring many opportunities and its fair share of challenges. HGB will play a key role in ensuring that, when the road is complete, we will be ready in every way.

Although some of the faces around the boardroom table have changed, the HGB Board has maintained its focus on the future. The Board and Management continue to build on the businesses that have always supported the Nation while also exploring other opportunities. HGB has started to explore various other ventures that will offer even more to Huu-ay-aht. The years ahead will be an exciting time of growth for HGB.

From the Board and Management at the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses, we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season, and all the best in 2023!



Stage at the Pachena Bay Music Festival (photo provided by HGB)

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